

BOOK NOTICES

BERNHARDT, PETER. 1993. **Natural Affairs.** (ISBN 0-679-41316-2, hbk). Villard Books, New York. \$25.00. 226 pp.

Subtitled "A Botanist Looks at the Attachments between Plants and People," this volume is a potpourri of essays on disparate botanical topics. The 14 chapters cover greenhouses/Rousseau/Mapplethorpe, a plant sanctuary near Melbourne, the botany of salads, the saffron crocus, passion flowers, heterostyly, nectar and nectaries, hoods and *Cannabis*, wattles (*Acacia*), *Lycaste* orchids, magnolias, columbines, daffodils, and orchids in cemeteries. Then follow an annotated bibliography (45 entries) and an index. Illustrations are line drawings and a few plates of splendid color photos. Bernhardt's chatty style combines with the interesting subject matter to make this book good and recommended reading.—*John W. Thieret.*

JOHNSTON, STANLEY H., JR. (compiler). 1992. **The Cleveland Herbal, Botanical, and Horticultural Collections.** (ISBN 0-87338-433-4, hbk). Kent State University Press, Kent, OH. \$85.00. 1012 pp.

This is an account of the pre-1803 works in Cleveland's Holden Arboretum, the Cleveland Medical Library Association, and the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland. Detailed bibliographic data are given for 977 books plus a few manuscripts and paintings; the earliest entries are "c. 1477" and a definite 1479. The "Notes" give data on authors and their works, a bonus for the general reader. Even to those who have no special knowledge of old botanical literature, quite a few of the authors' names will be familiar as the basis of many well-known generic names, e.g., *Commelina*, *Lindernia*, *Linnaea*, *Lobelia*, *Lonicera*, *Monarda*, *Ruellia*, and many others. Separate indexes are given to authors/titles, printers/publishers, illustrators, portraits, and non-botanical illustrations. The bibliography has about 160 entries. Persons interested in early literature on plants will want this book, as will botanical and biological libraries, for which it is a "must" reference work and a reminder of our rich botanical heritage.—*John W. Thieret.*

MCALISTER, WAYNE H. and MARTHA K. MCALISTER. 1993. **Matagorda Island. A Naturalist's Guide.** (ISBN 0-292-75150-8, hbk). University of Texas Press, Austin, TX 78713-7819. \$19.95 (pbk); \$40.00 (hbk). 354 pp.

Lying just northeast of Corpus Christi, Matagorda Island is one of the Texas barrier islands, less well known and less easily accessible than Padre Island a few miles to the south. This book is an fine guide to this bit of real estate (38 miles long and up to about 5 miles wide). The 10 chapters cover generalities (e.g., location, physiography, soils, climate, precipitation, temperature, storms, the human factor, Matagorda Island State Park and Wildlife Management area, how to get there [by ferry only], and tips for visitors), geology, history, ecology, vegetation, mammals, birds, herptiles, fishes, and invertebrates. Following are five appendices (mainly lists of island organisms), a three-page bibliography, and an index. One of the best "naturalists' guides" that I have seen, this well-written and most interesting book is recommended as good reading even for those who may never visit its subject island.—*John W. Thieret.*